

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 L-03 NSC-05
AGRE-00 IO-13 /088 W
-----128557 290636Z /10

R 290401Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2765
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEAN, IDSUBJECT: US-ASEAN CONSULTATIONS

REF : STATE 171081

1. SUMMARY: I DISCUSSED US-ASEAN TALKS WITH MINISTERS
WIDJOJO AND PRAWIRO. ONLY AGENDA ITEM THEY FOCUSED ON
WAS COMMODITY/NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES. BOTH WANTED ECONOMIC
MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT IN TALKS AND WILL DISCUSS THIS AND
INVITATION TO UNDERSECRETARY COOPER WITH OTHERS AT TIME OF
ASEAN SUMMIT. END SUMMARY.

2. AT REQUEST MINISTER WIDJOJO, I MET JULY 28 WITH HIM
AND MINISTER OF TRADE PRAWIRO TO BRING BOTH UP TO DATE ON
US PREPARATION FOR ASEAN MEETING. I LEFT WITH THEM TEXT
OF US NOTE ACCEPTING DATES FOR TALKS IN MANILA,
PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR MEETING, AND BRIEF STATEMENT, AS
EXTRACTED FROM STATE CABLES, GIVING US VIEWS ON AGENDA
ITEMS 4, 5, 6 AND 7. I EMPHASIZED THAT US WISHED TO
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SHARE INFORMATION ON OUR PREPARATION AND TO SEEK VIEWS
OF ASEAN COUNTRIES ON SPECIFIC ISSUES BUT SUCH DISCUSSIONS
WERE NOT INTENDED AS SUBSTITUTES FOR ESTABLISHED US-ASEAN
CHANNEL THROUGH THE GOP WHICH REMAINED POINT FOR
OFFICIAL EXCHANGES.

3. PRAWIRO SAID THAT ASEAN VIEWED MEETING WITH US, JUST

AS EARLIER MEETINGS WITH JAPAN AND THE EEC, BASICALLY AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR- ASEAN TO EXPLAIN ITSELF, ITS PROBLEMS, PURPOSES AND POLICIES TO ITS MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS. HE SAID BECAUSE OF WRITTEN MATERIALS AVAILABLE SETTING FORTH DEVELOPED COUNTRY POSITIONS, LDC'S GENERALLY HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF DCM POSITIONS THAN THE REVERSE. IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR LDC'S TO TELL THEIR STORIES TO OTHER ECONOMIC MINISTRIES IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHO MAY NOT BE AS WELL INFORMED AS FOREIGN OFFICES. ASEAN REPRESENTATIVES HAD FOUND THIS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN JAPAN.

4. PRAWIRO ALSO SAID ADVANCE PREPARATION FOR DISCUSSION SHOULD BE CAREFULLY UNDERTAKEN AND COORDINATED. HE NOTED THAT PREPARATIONS FOR FIRST MEETING BETWEEN ASEAN AND JAPAN HAD NOT BEEN ADEQUATE AND AS CONSEQUENCE MEETING FAILED. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SAY SO, HE IMPLIED THAT SECOND MEETING WAS DEVOTED IN PART TO RESTORING ATMOSPHERE SOURED IN FIRST SET OF TALKS.

5. ONLY AGENDA ITEM GIVEN MUCH ATTENTION WAS THAT RELATING TO NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES. PRAWIRO SAID HE HOPED US-ASEAN ISSUES WOULD BE THE FOCUS RATHER THAN NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES. HE HINTED THAT OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS MAY BE SENSITIVE TO FACT THAT INDONESIA WAS ONLY ASEAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRY REPRESENTED IN GROUP OF 19 AND ACTIVE IN NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. HE ALSO IMPLIED THAT DISCUSSION OF ASEAN ISSUES IN CONTEXT OF NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE MAY BOG DOWN IN RHETORIC.

6. PRAWIRO AND WIDJOJO APPEARED TO BE IN AGREEMENT WITH LIST OF COMMODITIES US WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS AT MANILA (STATE 158276) ALTHOUGH PRAWIRO SUGGESTED THAT SEMI-MANUFACTURED GOODS SHOULD BE ADDED. WIDJOJO SAID ASEAN HOPED TO DISCUSS NOT ONLY PRODUCTS IMPORTANT IN ASEAN-US TRADE BUT ALSO THOSE COMMODITIES THAT ARE IMPORTANT IN ASEAN TRADE WITH OTHER MARKETS AS WELL. BOTH SEEMED TO BELIEVE THAT EXCHANGE OF STATISTICS ON COMPOSITION AND PATTERN OF TRADE IN ADVANCE OF MEETING WOULD BE USEFUL. I TOLD THEM WE WELCOMED THEIR VIEWS ON THESE MATTERS BUT REMINDED THEM THAT PROPOSAL FOR AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WOULD HAVE TO COME TO THE USG THROUGH GOP CHANNEL.

7. IT WAS CLEAR FROM OUR DISCUSSION THAT GOI FAVORS ECONOMIC MINISTRIES INVOLVEMENT IN US-ASEAN MEETING AND THAT IT HOPES THAT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE THAT WILL PERMIT UNDERSECRETARY COOPER TO ATTEND. I SAID I THOUGHT

THE USG WAS PREPARED TO BE RESPONSIVE IF PROPOSAL CAME
THROUGH PROPER CHANNEL. THEY TOOK THE POINT AND SAID
MATTER WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH OTHER ASEAN STATES IN
KUALA LUMPUR AT TIME OF THE ASEAN SUMMIT.

8. WIDJOJO REFERRED TO DISCUSSION HE HAD IN WASHINGTON
ABOUT A POSSIBLE VISIT TO THE REGION BY COOPER, PRESIDENT'S
TRADE REPRESENTATIVE STRAUSS, AND TREASURY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY BERGSTEN TO DISCUSS MTN. HE SAID INDONESIA
WOULD WELCOME VISIT AND WOULD HOPE THAT IF COOPER ATTENDS
US-ASEAN MEETING, MTN VISIT MIGHT TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY
THEREAFTER.
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